



P1999J032

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of : R. Gupta  
Serial No. : 09/712,654  
Filed : 14 November 2000  
For : A Method for Extending the Operating life of a Fixed Bed Reactor  
Group Art Unit: 1764  
Examiner : Basia Anna Ridley

## Letter

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## Remarks

1. This is in response to the Office Action (Paper No. 18) of 3 June 2003.
2. In the Action, the Examiner has reiterated the rejection of all the claims in the application on the basis that they are unpatentable over the Beal (U.S. 3,607,000) and Gupta (U.S. 4,313,908) references. The gravamen of the rejection is that the Examiner considers it would have been obvious to modify the reactor/bypass construction of Beal by omitting the rupture disk because an open type bypass is described in Gupta. The reason why the Examiner considers it would have been obvious to the notionally skilled person to make the modification of Beal in view of Gupta's teachings is that the Gupta allows for a low pressure drop and a several fold increase in on-time of the reactor and, at the same time, increases reliability over bypass systems with a rupture disk. It is conceded that Gupta refers to his system of bypass tubes having a low pressure drop but, it is pointed out, Gupta does not attribute the low pressure drop to the absence of a rupture disk but rather, to the fact that he uses tubes of different lengths so as to segregate liquid and gas flow

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